

Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23), a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, today issued the following statement after President-elect Barack Obama announced the nomination of General Eric Shinseki to the cabinet post of Secretary for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

"I am pleased President-elect Obama chose someone of General Shinseki's stature as Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Like Dr. Peake, the current Secretary, Shinseki will bring a firsthand knowledge of what our veterans need through his past service and leadership as Chief of Staff in the Army and as a four-star general. I have worked with General Shinseki during my tenure in the House Armed Services Committee and know him to be a devoted advocate for our service members and I look forward to working with the Obama Administration to ensure our veterans receive the benefits, the care and the respect that our country owes them.

"General Peake helped begin to implement the largest funding increase passed by Congress for the VA and I believe General Shinseki will work to build upon Peake's nonpartisan approach to keeping the promise we make to our veterans the moment they commit to serve their country.